

**2. The Cited Prior Art Does Not Disclose Using Inductively Coupled Plasma Etching to Produce Fiducials with Vertical Planar Surfaces Adapted for Use as Register Surfaces for Positioning a Device on the Substrate.**

There is no disclosure in Dautartas and Vieider of using inductively coupled plasma etching to prepare fiducials having vertical planar register surfaces for aligning devices on the substrate. Although Dautartas discloses fiducials, they appear to be wet etched (i.e., they are tapered) and hence do not have a vertical surface. Furthermore, there is no mention of using these fiducials as register surfaces for a device. Although Vieider discloses plasma etching to prepare vertical walls, there is no disclosure of using these vertical walls to align devices on the substrate. The reference merely states that the fiber may be "moved up against a well-defined stop, thereby enabling the fibre to be coupled more effectively to a laser, for instance" (col. 3, ll. 21-24). Such a statement falls far short of disclosing vertical fiducials for passively aligning devices on the substrate. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

In light of the above, an early and favorable response is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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